

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

--~~The~~ An image heating apparatus has a ~~for heating an image formed on a~~  
~~recording material, comprising:~~ first rotatable member; ~~said first rotatable member~~ contacting a  
second rotatable member, wherein the recording material bearing the image passes through a nip  
portion formed at a position between ~~said the~~ first rotatable member and ~~said the~~ second rotatable  
member; a heater ~~heating means~~ for heating ~~said the~~ first rotatable member, the heater having  
~~said heating means including~~ a third rotatable member that is flexible and a temperature detecting  
element, wherein the third rotatable member contacts an outer peripheral surface of ~~said the~~ first  
rotatable member and ~~with the third member, wherein the temperature detecting element~~  
~~elements~~ is provided in an area of an inside surface said third rotatable member, wherein ~~said the~~  
first rotatable member and ~~said the~~ third rotatable member contact ~~contacts in the area;~~ and  
~~control means~~ a controller for controlling ~~said the heater~~ ~~heating means~~ based on detecting the  
temperature of said temperature detecting element ~~elements~~.

~~Thus, the activation time can be shortened, and a scratch can be prevented from being~~  
~~made on the surface of the rotatable member contacting the toner image.--~~